The Bloomfield Gazette.

Office, - - - At the Post Office.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1873.

THE LATEST WORD.

With this number our GAZETTE closes its probation by fulfilling its promised obligations. It was born and named, like most infantile humanity, without its own consent, and entered joyously upon its career of probation, presuming, that if it served the public faithfully, it would not be superseded in office. It was ambitious to please, and still more to be useful. It labored assiduously in its vocation in newspaperdom to lay the foundation broad for an elevated and successful village journal; enlisting one interest after another, conciliating the disaffected, harmonizing opposing ones, awaking the sleepy, arousing the lethargic, drawing out the young folks, etc., and encouraging mutuality among all; in what style, the well-filled columns of the GAZETTE, chiefly with original matter, may be referred to to determine. The subjects have been various and useful, some of them from writers of no mean reputation, and others developing a youthful talent of considerable promise.

It was just about to consummate a matrimonial alliance with the beautiful Montclair, when the maxim, "Many a slip 'tween the cup and the lip," was unexpectedly verified by its occupation and support being taken away by covetous aspirants for its fame—and labor! Alas! for Civil Service Reform, if the city of Washington don't succeed better than Bloomfield has in this work.

Well, the GAZETTE "is not dead but sleepeth." It will 'bide its time, which is sure to come. Meanwhile, it will rejoice if its supplanter succeeds in solving the social problem of the golden rule better than it has.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

SECOND ARTICLE.

THE direct benefit to young children, gained by employing the ablest and most experienced teachers in our Primary Schools, has been pointed out in a previous article; we propose in this to show that the same course is demanded, from the relations of these departments, to the higher ones.

In every well-graded school, each department has a specific work to do, the bounds of which are accurately defined. This arrangement of classes is difficult, requiring judicious management on the part of trustees, and the constant supervision of the Principal. We will suppose, for example, that in the primary department, children are carried in reading, through the Third Reader; in spelling, to the 40th or 100th page of the Speller; in arithmetic, through Division; in geography, to a certain subject in a certain text-book; in writing, through writing-book, No. 2. The next department begins where this ends, and carries on the work through a given number of books or subjects; and then hands the pupil over to a new set of teachers, who, having done their work, again advance him, until having gone through the studies of the High School, he graduates.

Many circumstances tend, however, to mar the beauty of this practice. In the first place, half the children leave school before they are twelve years of age; next, of those that remain, so many drop out in the course, that scarcely more than five per cent. enter the High School; then, of those, only about twenty per cent. graduate. Discouraging as this is, irregularity of attendance interferes still more with the work, and demands particular attention from school officers.

Did space permit, we would urge the formation, in our graded schools, of a "truant" class, or department, for those pupils who should be absent a given number of times in a month. But we have a more serious difficulty than even this to deal with; when the school year has ended, and promotions are to be made, *few are found prepared to begin the work of the new department.* Now, what is to be done? Shall those who fail to pass the examination be required to spend another year in the same department? or shall the deficiency be remedied by lowering the standard for promotion? Several reasons urge the latter course; among those are a desire to satisfy parents, who wish to have their children promoted; and the necessity of making room for new scholars in the lower departments. Consequently each class is burdened with a large number of pupils who neither keep up to the standard themselves, nor allow others to do so.

This trouble begins in the Primary department. The deficiencies with which a child leaves that room are seldom remedied. The teacher in the High school complains that his scholars do not know enough to pursue the required studies, and that he must do work belonging to the Grammar school. The teacher in the Grammar school makes the same complaint of the Intermediate, and the Intermediate teacher throws the blame back on the Primary teacher. There the trouble undoubtedly begins, and there should begin our reform.

The first step is to define clearly the work of the department; the next, to engage only teachers of ability and success. The questions immediately arise, How can a teacher be successful without experience? and how can she gain experience without an opportunity to teach? Normal schools are instituted to meet this very want. In Scotland an "apprenticeship" of five years must be served before a teacher is allowed to take charge of a school. In this country we are gradually approximating to that standard. Those who succeed in primary teaching in the model classes connected with our Normal schools, will probably succeed in the same work in a graded school; at least it would be safe to try them. If successful, pay them well, and keep them there. A wrong public sentiment, which prevails to some extent even among educators themselves, leads Primary teachers to seek "promotion" after having spent a year or two in the so-called lower departments. Let it be understood that such teaching is as difficult, as well paid, and as honorable, as any other, and we shall not have so much difficulty to obtain competent teachers for it. In New Haven the salaries in the Primary departments are second only to those of the first assistant. It is so also in one school in this county. It is not necessary to say that that school is a model for all the rest; not that the salary makes the school a success, but it commands the needed talent.

Success cannot be expected until the work is clearly defined, and the teacher held responsible for it. Let it be understood that at the close of each school year, the A class must be ready to enter the Intermediate department. Of course, there will always be some failures; but if the whole class shows a general lack of fitness for promotion, either too much has been required of the teacher, or she is unfitted for the position. In the one case, the programme must be changed; in the other, the teacher.

The latter alternative is unpleasant for officers as well as teachers; but the issue must be met, and the sooner it is understood by teachers that they will be judged by their success, the better it will be for them and for our schools.

The subject of Primary Teaching lies so at the foundation of our Public School system, that we earnestly hope it will receive increasing attention from our leading educators and writers; and particularly do we beg the citizens of Essex County to take such steps as will raise these departments to the highest order. Success throughout the whole will be the result.

HOME CELEBRITIES.

CLERICAL—FOURTH PAPER.

In former papers we have spoken of those esteemed pastors, Rev. Messrs. P., B. and V. A fourth one, Rev. Mr. M., must be the subject of this brief sketch. He is, perhaps, the youngest of all the pastors of the Village. Mr. M. is a pleasant, fluent speaker, with a good voice, a logical mind, a clear head and an excellent memory. As he usually adheres closely to the programme he marks out for himself, he avoids, to a great extent, the frequent fault of extemporaneous speakers, that is, of hesitation and repetition. His aim and method are apparent throughout his discourse; therefore he carries his audience along with him from the beginning to the end. His mind and heart are full of his subject, which he has studied with some care, and which has warmed his own soul and at times animates his countenance to a degree.

Mr. M. wisely seeks the aid of rhetoric and oratory, or at least shows that he recognizes their use and importance, to give greater efficiency to his public ministrations. This is well. We always think a minister makes a grave mistake when he neglects this part of his preparation for the pulpit. It is true we sometimes see a theatrical display that suggests to our thoughts that "vaulting ambition which doth overleap itself"—but never in Bloomfield among its regular pastors. Our Mr. M. is in no danger on this score while he holds on to that firm reliance which now seems to sustain him, of which he recently declared—"it is not enough to have a sound theology—and rhetorical power—these are well—but our dependence is on the power of the Holy Spirit to touch the speaker's tongue, to fire his soul, and to give to the truths uttered an electrical effect in the hearts and consciences of his hearers."

We believe his people are highly pleased with their pastor, and edified by his ministry. His settlement here is esteemed an acquisition to our village.

OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

We welcomed to our columns in last issue a communication about the "Bloomfield High School" from a gentleman who has proved his interest in the school by devoting much time to its improvement. We have wondered that the important subjects connected with its management and curriculum of study have not produced many communications for the GAZETTE before this, that would have concentrated the public interest and feelings greatly to the advantage of our schools and the sound education of our children.

Failing these, it was a part of our plan, as soon as the question of our New Volume was settled, to address ourselves to the task of ventilating a number of most important questions connected with these high interests.

We hope the commendation and the promise which the gentleman offers for that school may be well-deserved—but from what we have heard in several quarters, we think the people are likely to receive his assurances with allowance, if not distrust, till the new department and the capacity of its teacher are fully proved by that sure test of ability—*success.*

From the high testimonials which accompany Mr. Stackpole, however, we have good reason to believe that he will endure this ordeal with credit, and demonstrate that, if the new department is unsuccessful, it will not be the fault of its teacher.

It would not be fair to prejudge the case before a sufficient trial, and we hope and advise that ample opportunity be allowed to the Trustees and the teachers to prove the declaration of the correspondent referred to, that "*we have in our midst as good a school as can be found elsewhere.*"

For ourselves, we have learned caution by experience. And our experience has taught us most effectually that it is not one person in ten thousand who is fit to be a teacher, and, of those who may be competent to *teach*, it is doubtful if one in a thousand is duly qualified and called to the high vocation of an EDUCATOR. It is because the subject is dear to our hearts and appeals to our tenderest sensibilities and broadest philanthropy, that we would speak plainly. The right education, the thorough discipline, the successful training of our children are questions of infinite consequence to our community not only, but to our State, to our Nation, and to the World. In our Central School District there are, we understand, over twelve hundred school children. No intelligent citizen, looking forward a few years to the development and maturity of these twelve hundred children into men and women, can afford to jeopard *them* the vital interests of society and of posterity, by indifference *now* to the character of the schools established for their education. We maintain that every one is bound by the loudest calls of duty, of interest and of policy, to give time and consideration to this most important subject.

We have now a fine building for our "Graded School," and the citizens have showed themselves willing and ready to vote the necessary funds for manning it with competent teachers. Here, unhappily, the people stop. No, not exactly; they do elect a certain number of citizens to act as trustees and then they retire to their homes and their secular business and leave the "school factory" to be run, as it may, by the trustees for another year.

Would any judicious person, about to erect a residence, commit the building of his house to a man with so little concern and scrutany into his knowledge of materials, his judgment of workmanship and his estimate and control of skilled workmen?

Would any intelligent man, having an important property interest, or precious legal right imperilled, confide its vindication to an attorney of whose learning and qualification he knows nothing?

Would any true father entrust the health and life of his wife, or child, in a critical case, to a physician who proposed to treat their ailments, without most thorough investigation and deepest solicitude as to his ability?

These pertinent queries suggest their own answers.

We have nothing to say against the excellent men who constitute the present board of trustees. No one respects them as citizens and as high-minded Christian men more than we do. No one would more willingly honor them for their sacrifice of time and thought to the duties laid upon them. But we desire to awaken the community to a conviction that if a chance election did result in placing good and worthy men in office, it might have resulted differently. Another time we may be startled when it is too late, by finding an unexpected verdict giving these important functions to men who have far less claims to the respect and confidence of the wise and good. Moreover, we respectfully submit that even excellence, probity and willingness to serve, furnish no sufficient assurance of ability to perform these functions which so eminently require peculiar conditions of knowledge, experience and applied wisdom.

It must be remembered that the trustees, according to law, have the appointment and dismissal of teachers, the adoption of school-books, and the determining of all questions that may arise in the arrangement of studies and duties, of classification and modes of instruction, of rewards and punishments, etc. Teachers are expected, as we believe, to execute their behests, whether in accord with their own educated and experienced judgments or otherwise.

If we have been fortunate in the election of men who have the good of the schools at heart, and whose desires and aims have been in the direction of progress, are we sure that another election may not give us men whose incapacity to rightly judge of the needs of the school, will cause the neglect of its essential interests, or whose weak partiality in the appointment or retention of incompetent teachers will endanger its efficiency, or whose dogmatic opinions and control will frustrate the wise plans of an experienced and able principal and prove a serious disadvantage to our schools?

We are aware that much has been said in the community to the disparagement even of the capacity and efficiency of the present board. When we have wished to defend and excuse, we have been reminded of the many among our citizens who are unwilling to send their children there; and of others who felt compelled to withdraw their children from well-considered dissatisfaction; and of others yet who keep their children there because they cannot avail themselves of better schools at a distance, though they hesitate not to openly express their grave disaffection. Our independent position compels us to hear these things, and gives us the manliness to speak of them. Truth never suffers so much as when its assumed friends try to hide it from the light. We think we have but one single over-ruling motive in giving publicity to these views, and that is, to stir up the thought of the community to the elevation of our schools, the right education of our children. Our trustees have labored hard and accomplished some thing, perhaps much, in advancing our schools. Let them now rid themselves of all fear or favor in the judgment of the merits and fitness of teachers, and dismiss unhesitatingly any of known incompetency, if there be any such; and let them, if their principal teacher be qualified for his position, as he should be, throw the responsibility of plan and detail upon him, and co-operate with him and uphold him; and we are convinced the people will support the board and reward it with the high commendation of "well done, good and faithful servant."

In a few months an election will take place, and *now* is the time for the community to begin to consider the needs of their schools. Gentlemen would do well to inform themselves, by personal visitation and inquiry, and be prepared to make their convictions and wants known. We deprecate the postponement of all consideration of this subject till the night of the election when there will be no time for argumentation or deliberation; but a hasty thought, a haphazard nomination, and a rushing election will determine in an inconsiderate hour the stupendous interests of our children, and therefore of our community, not only for another year, but, in some instances, irrevocably.

W. P. L.

FOR THE BLOOMFIELD GAZETTE.

FAREWELL!

AND must we say farewell, GAZETTE?
Ah, must we say, farewell! And yet
Thy noble sacrifice of life—
Too brave to seek ignoble strife—
Hath taught a lesson to our heart,
That there exists a better part.
The kindly tone of thy resolve
We sadly feel; it doth involve
With all thy hopes, with all thy fears,
Our wishes true; our meed of tears
Thy novel presence quick became
A gladly welcomed household name;
For clustering 'bout thy cheery hearth,
Were local wisdom, fancy, mirth;
Each promising, some future day,
To have more than a village sway.
But now thou bust, upon thy bier,
Each votary to drop a tear.
Would, ere the Fates have said Amen,
Thou, Phœnix-like, mightst rise again!
But if from us thou wilt be torn,
All cultured sympathy must mourn;
For thou hast in thy thoughtful mien,
Much of proverbial "might have been"
And dost reflect, with careful light,
All to commend, all that is right,
So that no censorship were meet
To argus-eye thy folded sheet,
Ere eager, youthful eyes should seek
Thy treasures of the current week.
Thy epitaph, when wrote, we fain
Would have to read—'Twas not in vain—
For there shall dwell, in memory long,
The cadence of thy weekly song.
And must we say farewell, GAZETTE?
Ah, must we say farewell! And yet—

Orange. H. C—T.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The circulation of the GAZETTE has averaged over 1,600 copies for each issue.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The Editors of the GAZETTE gratefully acknowledge the generous responses of numerous friends in Bloomfield and Montclair, in Caldwell, Newark, Orange, and New York to their prospectus. These would, we are assured, have been largely increased in numbers but for our announcement in last number of intended discontinuance. The wisdom of our decision is confirmed by the judgment of some of our most judicious friends in Bloomfield and Montclair. The subscription-money that accompanied many of those responses was all returned last week to the several subscribers. We are not without hope that circumstances will again renew the relationship so pleasantly begun.

Any communications bearing upon our relations to the late BLOOMFIELD GAZETTE, or having respect to the future BLOOMFIELD AND MONTCLAIR GAZETTE, may be addressed to either of its Editors, by name, at Bloomfield, N. J.

THE ALDINE.—Wm. P. Lyon, having been appointed Local Agent for this elegant and unique Art-Journal in Montclair and Bloomfield, will be happy to receive subscriptions for the same at Madison's Bookstore, in Montclair, or at his own residence, Bloomfield, at both of which places specimen copies can be seen. Please read advertisement of the Aldine on third page.

GOVERNOR SEWARD'S TRAVELS ROUND THE WORLD.—The Appletons are publishing, in the elegant style which characterizes that famous publishing house, the remarkable journey of Governor Seward round the world. It is published only by subscription, and Mr. Joseph Babbage, of East Orange, is the gentlemanly Agent now canvassing this section for subscriptions to that work. The readers of the GAZETTE will never find us commending anything which we have not first examined and approved. This work of the great statesman who has honored his country by a long period of official service, has laid us all under additional obligations by leaving this record of his travels and impressions.

NEWARK BOOK STORE.—Mr. G. O. Dunckley, the proprietor of one of the best book and music stores in Newark, is a model Christian gentleman. We would gladly recommend those wanting pianos, parlor organs, or sheet music, as well as those who may want Bibles, Sunday-school books for libraries, or any popular and standard works, to visit and inspect Mr. Dunckleys' spacious and well-supplied store, at 719 Broad street, Newark.

We are persuaded that implicit confidence may be placed in any statement which Mr. Dunckley may make respecting his goods. See advertisement.

THE EVANGELIST.—This excellent newspaper is the organ of the reunited Presbyterian Church in this country. It is, we think, in every point of view, head and shoulders above all others of that faith which we have seen. And this is high praise, for the great Presbyterian Church can boast many weekly journals which it might well be proud of. But to our mind, Dr. Field, the editor and proprietor of the *Evangelist*, understands how, and has succeeded in making the most acceptable and useful, and at the same time the most liberal and consistent religious journal in the land, except the *Methodist*, which we regard as its peer. We have read the *Evangelist* weekly for twelve or more years past, and would not for any price be willing to miss it from our Sunday table. How any Presbyterian can do without it, we can hardly conjecture.

HOUSE-HEATING.—We are confident that the number of fires that have taken place in the last few months will do away to a great extent with the hot-air furnace, where air is heated much above the temperature of hot water or low-pressure steam-heat. We apprehend that all in quest of a low-pressure steam apparatus will look well that they may have the best and most durable. We cheerfully recommend the apparatus as erected by Angell & Atwater, 42 Duane street, New York. They have extended experience in all kind of steam work. House-heating of late years they have made a specialty. They produce with their apparatus the same character of heat as hot water produces. Mr. Wm. P. Lyon, of this paper, has had this apparatus in his house for several winters, and is very willing that any may inspect it that have a desire to do so. Superheated steam is impossible with this apparatus, as the fire is surrounded by water.

OBITUARY.

JOSHUA LEAVITT, D.D.

THE Rev. Joshua Leavitt, D.D., who died in New York, on the 16th inst., was born in 1794, graduated at Yale in 1814, studied law for a short time, and then entered the Theological Seminary at New Haven. We believe he was a pastor for only four years; the rest of his life being devoted to the editorial profession. He was connected at different times with the *Sailors' Magazine*, the *N. Y. Evangelist*, the *Emancipator*, and the *Independent*, with the latter at the time of his death. His efforts did much toward introducing the cheap postage system, and made the anti-slavery movement a great political power in this country. In England his influence was felt in promoting free-trade, he having written a prize essay, entitled "Memoirs on Wheat," which had a great circulation. It is about thirty years since Dr. Leavitt left Bloomfield. Though his stay here was short, he left upon many the impress of his strong mind, earnest purpose, large-hearted liberality, and clear, common sense. His Bible class, of about twenty-five young men, was thoroughly instructed in the wisdom of Solomon's Proverbs and the Christian doctrines of Paul's Epistle to the Romans. Many of them are now leading citizens of the town, and remember with gratitude his able, attractive, and faithful instruction. Such men never die.

MONTCLAIR LOCAL.

The young people's society of the Congregational Church have presented their pastor, Rev. Mr. Bradford, with a handsomely-bound edition of Appleton's Encyclopædia, valued at $100. A good investment for the young folks.

Mr. Wright, late proprietor of the Montclair Hotel, has completed his fine brick store near his old place. The building, which has a front of Philadelphia brick, is finely finished off by handsome plate-glass windows of single panes. It is decidedly an ornament to our village.

The opening of the Montclair division of the Midland Railroad is an event which has excited more than usual interest in our village. Considering the difficulties that had to be overcome in constructing the road and the financial difficulties to be met, the road can be called a success. The croakers who lacked confidence in the enterprise are now very glad to avail themselves of the advantages it offers, and pronounce it a "real convenience." Depots must be constructed at once at the principal points. This work the Railroad Company promise to perform as rapidly as possible, provided they have the co-operation of the property-holders whose lands have been so greatly enhanced in value by this enterprise. The only depot along the road is at Watchung, the construction of which is due solely to the energy of Mr. Edward E. Clark of that place. Though the surrounding property-owners have subscribed, and some liberally, toward its erection, Mr. Clark has alone pushed it to completion. The depot is built by the Corrugated Iron Company of Springfield, Mass. It has a covered platform of 100 feet in length, and is in every respect decidedly ornamental; as an artist of Montclair remarked: "It is all beauty." The interior is finished off in the best manner, the ladies' and gentlemen's apartments being in one, making a model depot waiting-room. The whole is surmounted by a handsome tower, with an appropriate cap. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the public spirit and enterprise which have since aided in securing the first and so superior a depot.

The Railroad Company and citizens of Montclair are making preparation to construct a depot near the Water Tank at once.

CASUALTY.—In the death of Mr. George Bowman, how forcibly are we admonished of the uncertain tenure of individual life. Without suspecting any danger, he took a frequented seat in his shop, beneath a bracketed shelf, supporting a weight of lumber above, when suddenly it was precipitated upon him, breaking his spine, and causing instant or speedy death.

The Watchung Sociable took place at the house of Edward P. Clark on Friday evening, 17th inst.

The Hillside Sociable took place at the house of Mr. W. J. Adams, Friday, Jan. 11.

The People's Society of the Congregational Church held their fourth meeting at the house of Mr. Merritt Wilcox, on the 15th January.

CHICAGO.—There are 35,000 men, young and old, in want of employment. The Young Men's Christian Association Labor Bureau report from 5,000 to 6,000 young men seeking employment. Among these are splendid accountants and elegant penmen. Already 90 of every 100 of the situations are filled, and all this surplus labor pushing and crowding for employment. Such facts constantly before our eyes ought to teach the rising generation a great lesson.

BLOOMFIELD LOCAL.

NEW HOUSES.—Mr. Joseph P. Hague is putting up two very nice medium-sized houses, just east of the one he built last fall for his parent's residence. They are near the park on a street that will some day or other, probably, have a name which it well deserves.

—— A new house or store is also going up on Bloomfield Avenue, a little below Conger street—to accommodate a shoe business, we believe.

—— Preparations are making by Mr. Wesley Corby to build a house on Washington Avenue, near Thomas street. It will, no doubt, be something creditable to that locality, as well as to his good taste.

—— There are two very nice and convenient medium-sized houses, nearly completed, on Midland Avenue, near Washington Avenue, which, we understand, will be rented at reasonable prices to desirable tenants.

—— Probably the choicest and most eligible location in Bloomfield now in the market is occupied by two large and well appointed houses built in the best manner for Mr. Wm. P. Lyon, and under his direct supervision. They are in WEST END, on elevated ground on Washington Avenue, which is a thoroughfare between Bloomfield and Montclair, convenient to two depots and but a short distance from two others. These fine houses are for sale, or will be let with privilege of purchase. See advertisement of Thompson & Co. on third page.

SIDEWALKS IN WINTER.

We have always energetically resisted the accusation, and defended Bloomfield against indifference, apathy, and sloth. We hope our fellow-citizens will gratify our vindication of them by an increasing activity in the things which are most obvious and most felt. One of these is the clearing of snow from sidewalks. Some attention has been given to this, but enough of neglect has been manifested to disgrace any civilized community, saying nothing of the higher expectations of refinement and Christianity. We are sorry to say that one of the worst exhibitions of this neglect occurs at intervals all along "Central Avenue," between Bloomfield Avenue and the Presbyterian Church. In a few cases the walk has been well cleared, but generally we observe that it has been left to the superficial horse-plow, which makes a furrow for a single pedestrian at a time, with an embankment of snow on each side. This leaves snow at the bottom to be first packed by the feet and then to be melted into slush by the midday sun, and frozen rough again toward night; or perhaps the warmth of the day melts it into water, making a canal to be waded through, and when congealed again becomes unsafe and useless except for feet sharp shod. The consequence of this is, that our citizens have been compelled to share the road with the horses at the risk of life and limb. We admit the same thing has occurred in other streets also; but we submit that it is wholly unnecessary. Now that we have flag or plank walks pretty generally through the town, we ought to have better walking all winter than can be boasted of in the city.

A little extra labor promptly furnished after each storm—not with a plow alone, but with the hand shovel, and for the full width of the walks—would give us comfortable walking all winter. The winter is not over yet; we may have other snow storms, and shall we not test this matter, and show our unselfish (perhaps, we should really say, *selfish*) benevolence by proving how easy the thing can be done, if attended to early and with a will to do it.

TRACT DISTRIBUTION.

Bloomfield has for many years had one of the most efficient Tract organizations. It is auxiliary to the American Tract Society, and is wholly free from sectarian bias or proselytism. It is under the management of a board, comprising the pastors and a selection of laymen from five of the churches of our village. The "Distributing Committee," with Mr. Wm. P. Lyon as chairman, attends to the selection and monthly distribution of over 1,000 tracts, and many hundreds of the Tract Society's monthly papers. This is accomplished by the hands of some forty voluntary visitors by personal calls at every house.

As an illustration of the labor, we print the following return made by one of our excellent female visitors:—

BLOOMFIELD, Dec. 29, 1872.
District, No. —.

Subscribers for the English Messenger for the ensuing year	17
For the German Messenger	7
For the Child's Paper	2
Number of English Tracts needed	32
Number of German Tracts needed	16
Number of Swedish Tracts	1

I have made during the year, with one exception, monthly visits to my district, have found my visits welcome, the people ready to receive the tracts, and generally to converse upon religious subjects. I find many, especially among the Germans, who seem ignorant of the nature of true religion, and of the necessity of the new birth. There is one thing which does more to hinder the spread of the truth than any other cause or causes put together, and that is—intemperance. We sow the seed, and pray for God's blessing upon it, but as long as there is this hindrance, the good work will progress slowly. Can nothing be done to check this evil? The children nearly all attend Sabbath-school, though sometimes among the more needy families irregularly, in consequence of a want of proper clothing. There has been much sickness during the year, but the mortality has not been large. Our labors for this year are closed, and though we cannot see much fruit, we will remember the injunction of the Apostle—"Not to be weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

The Sentinel of Freedom is the oldest newspaper in the State of New Jersey, its first number having been issued 5th October, 1796.

THE TEMPERANCE CAUSE.

THIRD ARTICLE.

We offer no apology for making a third article on this momentous subject. Those of us who have escaped the fangs of the viper till long-continued habit and advanced years have superinduced caution and gratified confidence in our stability, may think we would be more edified and entertained by a different topic. May we not trust, however, that those who read our former articles will ponder this one also. Our object in this paper is especially to illustrate and enforce the *advantages* of adopting the pledge of total abstinence. Please consider our argument and appeal.

The benefits in making the pledge are two-fold—*personal* and *reflective*. And the first personal benefit we would speak of is that of *security*; *security* from drunkenness, and all its attendant horrid, aggravated evils; *security* from the drunkard's despicable name; *security* from the drunkard's blasted reputation; *security* from the drunkard's odious character; *security* from the drunkard's miserable life, from his red nose, inflamed eyes, bloated face, nauseating breath, imbecile mind, foolish tongue, trembling nerves, zigzag gate, and, above all, *security* from the drunkard's most dreadful end. We know an objector will say, "I'll not be a drunkard;" and we must admit the *possibility* of his position; but we must in honesty warn him that it is the *unsafe* side. He surely will not, if he keep the pledge.

Do you see that boy skimming gayly over the ice? He is confident and venturesome. His father warned him that it was dangerous to skate on the river; the air-holes and weak places would be very likely to entrap him. "I'll not go into the danger," said the youth. "I'll not go far from the shore." Well, do you see him now? Enticed by his comrades, he has adventured far. He has skated long without accident, and now begins to fear nothing. Now he finds himself on weak ice—see! one foot goes through—he remembers the warning—but a nimble spring and he is out of danger. A merry laugh, his agility is applauded, and now, self-confident, he thinks himself proof against peril. Presently, in his rounds, he glides out again, and the thin ice trembles and breaks under him; but he is not intimidated, his expertness extricates him again. The jovial laugh and the skating go on. Suddenly they are alarmed. On accidentally taking their bearings, they find their old landmarks have disappeared. The field of ice, buoyant with the swelling tide, is no longer detained by its moorings, and is fast drifting with the stream. The winds and waves are conspiring for their destruction. The sky is lowering, and the falling snow is chilling their vigorous frames. Benumbed and senseless, they are not aware of their awful danger. You can see them now, huddled together, stupified and unconscious, while the ice is breaking up around, and the crested wave is careering past; and you can feel, but you cannot relieve. Can nothing save them? No! their fate is sealed. Alas, mothers! your prayers come too late. Sisters! your anxious inquiries bring no encouragement, your burning tears will avail naught. No human arm can save them now. There comes a tremendous wave; it lifts one side of the ice bridge; they slide off and are engulfed beneath the briny billow. We leave you to make the application. "I'll not go into danger," said the self-confident youth.

O, *you'll* not be a drunkard! Don't, we beseech you, lay that flattering unction to your heart; it will prove a snare to your feet, and may ensure your destruction. No man ever *set out* to be a drunkard; it has *always* come, and *will* always come from repeating the first glass too often.

But we would name *another personal benefit.* It makes one, in some sense, a *public* man and a public *benefactor.* It places him in a more exalted relation to his fellow-men, and he is conscious of an increase of moral power. He feels that he wields a more extended and powerful influence. He sees that he is of more importance in the community than he had ever before dreamed of. We are aware that we are touching upon an argument that it is not so easy to represent by language, as it is mainly a matter of feeling, and of one's own consciousness—but the truth of it is indisputable. We can see it in the countenance, and in the increased self-respect which is manifest, though it can only be fully understood and appreciated by actual experience.

A *third personal benefit* is the increased estimation he is held in by the community. Such a man is prized more highly by society; his wife, his children, his relatives, his friends, regard him in a different and more interesting light. He secures the confidence of his neighbors; he gets *out* of self, and its low, sensual, sordid regards, and joins himself unto his fellows. He has become a member of what may not inaptly be termed a mutual safety insurance company, whereby he contributes his share towards the common interest; and his corporeal dwelling is secured from ten thousand ills, and its immortal inhabitant from consequent exposure to defilement, loss and ruin.

On the other hand, what is the estimation of the rum-drinker by the community? Who places confidence in him or his principles? Does any one, except those of a kindred sort, court his acquaintance, or seek his company? Will any parent desire a rum-drinker to instruct his children? Is any church willing to have a wine-bibber for its pastor? Will any family trust the care of its sick to a physician who is addicted to the use of alcoholic stimulus? And is it not a fact that, in every branch of business, excepting perhaps

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Thomas M. Tryniski
309 South 4th Street
Fulton New York
13069

www.fultonhistory.com